

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 3 can be found in the specification as originally filed, for example at page 31, line 27 - page 32, line 4, and in claims 1-3 as originally filed. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the combination of Japanese Patent JP-10275905 to Yamamoto, and U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2004/0040491 to Murakami et al, and Stanley Wolf et al., Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era, Volume 1: Process Technology, 23-26 (Lattice Press 1986). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot with respect to claim 2, which has been canceled, and traverse the rejection with respect to claims 1 and 3.

The Office Action relies on the combination of Yamamoto, Wolf and Murakami to reject claims 1 and 3. However, Murakami is not available as prior art to the above-captioned application, and the combination of Yamamoto and Wolf does not support a rejection of claims 1 and 3.

Because priority to application U.S. Patent Application No. 09/857,803 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,846,718) and international application PCT/JP00/07111 have been perfected, the instant application is entitled to the benefits of the earlier both the international filing date of October 13, 2000, and the date of the first filing in the U.S. of June 11, 2001. However, the Murakami reference is the March 4, 2004, publication of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/601,576, filed June 24, 2003. Because the Murakami reference was both filed and published after the instant application's effective filing date, the Murakami reference is not available as prior art under §102 or §103 against the instant application.

Thus, Murakami cannot support a rejection of the pending claims. The combination of Yamamoto and Wolf also cannot support a rejection of claims 1 and 3.

The Office Action admits that Yamamoto does not disclose using a CZ wafer produced from a single crystal ingot of which COPs are reduced for the whole crystal as a bond wafer. Wolf does not remedy the deficiencies of Yamamoto.

Wolf discloses general wafer preparation from CZ silicon single crystals. Wolf does not contain any disclosure or suggestion that a CZ wafer produced from a single crystal ingot of which COPs are reduced for the whole crystal is used as the bond wafer, or even that a CZ wafer may be produced from a single crystal ingot of which COPs are reduced for the whole crystal.

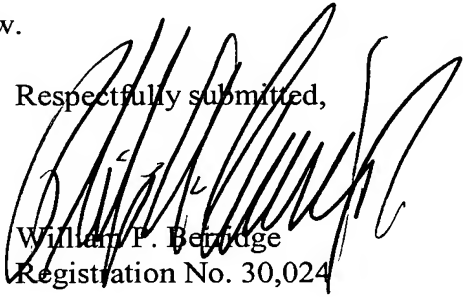
Because neither Yamamoto nor Wolf discloses or suggests using as a bond wafer a CZ wafer produced from a single crystal ingot of which COPs are reduced for the whole crystal as a bond wafer, no combination of Yamamoto and Wolf discloses, teaches or suggests the subject matter of claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3 are patentable over Yamamoto in view of Murakami and Wolf, at least because Murakami is not available as prior art to the claims and because no combination of Yamamoto and Wolf discloses or suggests the subject matter of independent claim 1, or of its dependent claim 3. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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WPB:PAC/axl

Attachment:
Information Disclosure Statement

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